

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2
--For the construction of the plasmid FLAG-HMK-IL-15, a 322 bp cDNA fragment encoding mature IL-15 protein was amplified by PCR utilizing synthetic oligonucleotides [sense 5'-GGAATTCAACTGGGTGAATGTAATA-3' (SEQ ID NO:5; *EcoRI* site (underlined) plus bases 145-162); antisense 5'-CGGGATCCTCAAGAAGTGTGATGAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:6; *BamHI* site [underlined] plus bases 472-489)]. The template DNA was obtained from PHA-activated human PBMCs. The PCR product was purified, digested with *EcoRI* and *BamHI*, and cloned into the pAR(DRI)59/60 plasmid digested with *EcoRI-BamHI* as described (Blonar *et al.*, *Science* 256:1014, 1992; LeClair *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:8145, 1992). The backbone of the pAR(DRI)59/60 plasmid contains in frame sequences encoding the FLAG and HMK recognition peptide sequences (Blonar *et al.*, *Science* 256:1014, 1992; LeClair *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:8145, 1992).--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3
--The human IL-15 protein bearing a double mutation (Q149D; Q156D) was designed to target the putative sites critical for binding to the IL-2R subunit. The polar, but uncharged glutamine residues at positions 149 and 156 were mutated into acidic residues of aspartic acid utilizing PCR-assisted mutagenesis. A cDNA encoding the double mutant of IL-15 was amplified by PCR utilizing a synthetic sense oligonucleotide [5'-GGAATTCAACTGGGTGAATGTAATA-3' (SEQ ID NO:5); *EcoRI* site (underlined hexamer) plus bases 145-162] and a synthetic antisense oligonucleotide (5'-CGGGATCCTCAAGAAGTGTGATGAACATGTCGACAAT-ATGTACAAAACTGTCCAAAAAT-3' (SEQ ID NO:7); *BamHI* site (underlined hexamer) plus bases 438-489; mutated bases are singly underlined]. The template was a plasmid containing cDNA that encodes human FLAG-HMK-IL-15. The amplified fragment was digested with *EcoRI/BamHI* and cloned into the pAR(DRI)59/60 plasmid digested with *EcoRI/BamRI* as described (LeClair *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:8145, 1989). The presence of a mutation

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at residue 156 was confirmed by digestion with *Sall*; the mutation introduces a new *Sall* restriction site. In addition, mutations were verified by DNA sequencing, according to standard techniques. The FLAG-HMK-IL-15 (Q149D; Q156D) double mutant protein was produced, purified, and verified by sequencing as described above for the FLAG-HMK-IL-15 wild-type protein.--
